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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Lulu Tian is building a library in Uganda

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

December 27, 2024 . 6:00 AM — 2 min read

Lulu Tian talks with refugees in Uganda. COURTESY PHOTO/LULU TIAN

Pilgrim Drive resident Lulu Tian is building a library in a Ugandan refugee camp.

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The Winchester High School graduate got involved when she was an MIT undergraduate. She went to Uganda as part of an MIT project, MIT-D lab, and saw for herself how hungry residents are for books — and on her own, started her library project.

“Refugees from South Sudan and the Congo have little resources and no access to books,” she says.

So with a group of friends she met there, Tian not only started the library project, but also sets up workshops for mothers and children who aren’t in school.

Refugees Otim Francis Okot and Peter Hardrock work with Lulu Tian in the camp. COURTESY PHOTOS/LULU TIAN

Want to know what’s happening around town? Click here to check out our new calendar!

“We’ve gotten lots of generous donations from Winchester folks through the Go Fund Me app,” she says. “And also a box of books from the Winchester Public Library.”

So far, she’s raised $2,500 and she uses two-thirds of that money to buy and ship the books, with the rest going to workshops, including meals attending.

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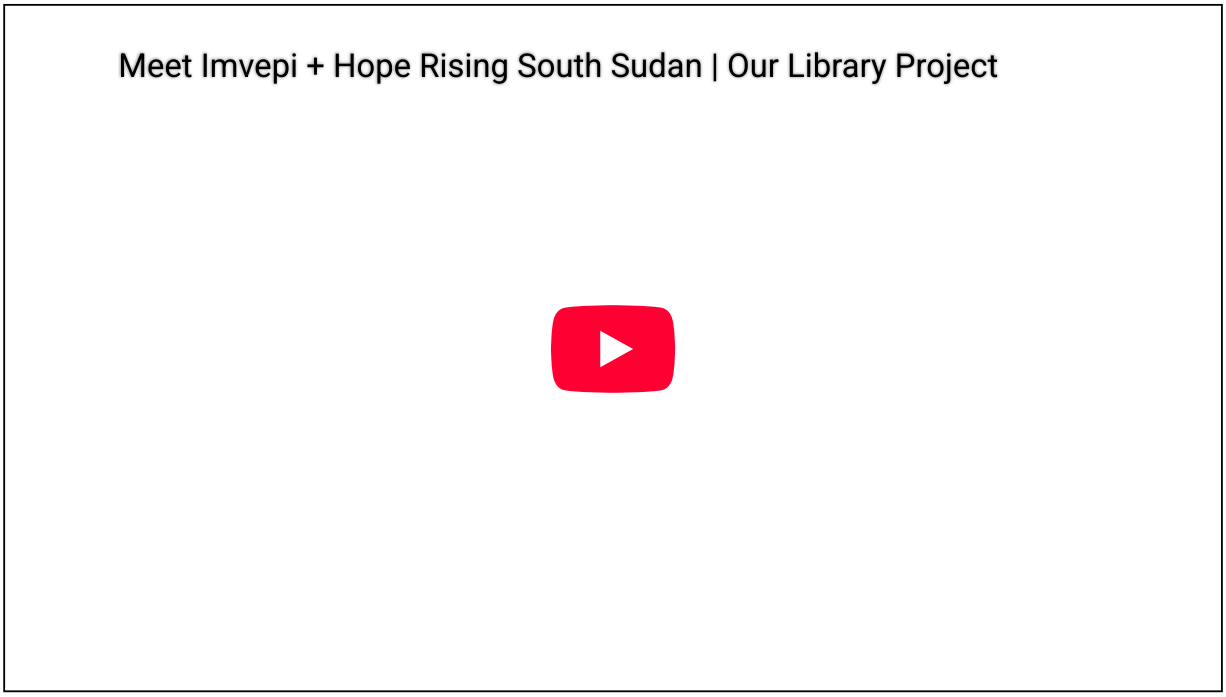
"A dollar buys a lot in Uganda," says Tian. "With $10, we can provide 10 meals. It's good to provide an incentive for those who might be taking time off from work to learn welding, for instance."

Meals are typically sorghum and beans with some protein and a vegetable stew.



COURTESY VIDEO/LULU TIAN

Having finished up her Northwestern University master's degree in film making, Tian wants to teach a photo workshop to refugees who have donated devices.

"Eventually, I'd like to teach film making, too," she says.

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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - WinPAC unites with light

On a cold and blustery day, two post-graduate Winchester High School students and others stood outside the Stop & Shop inviting folks to buy luminary kits as part of the Unite with Light event planned for Sunday, Dec. 14. The successful program was started by Mairin Norton, a high-schooler who

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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Alisa Dong needs your help with Thanksgiving food drive

Standish Lane resident Alisa Dong has only lived in town for about four years, but she's already immersed in helping people. And she wants residents to help her provide Thanksgiving Day meals for local food-insecure residents. A member of the town's Family Action Network (FAN), Dong is its

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You probably know that cheerleaders appear at sporting events to cheer on their teams, but you might not know that cheerleading is a sport in its own right. Or that Winchester Cheer coaches volunteer to help girls and boys learn and compete in cheerleading. Middlesex Street resident Erin Black is

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Although Patti Reilly opened her boutique, Jules, about a year and a half ago, she's already discovered the generosity of Winchester residents. That's why she and her husband, John, decided to offer a 10% discount on one item to anyone who brings in "gently used children's clothing.

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Latest

EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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